

**MINUTES**  
**INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

November 5, 2008

Department of Education  
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room  
151 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:04 a.m. Board members Dr. Suellen Reed, Dr. Edward Eiler, David Shane, James Edwards, Daniel Elsener, Jo Blacketor, Todd Huston, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, Steve Gabet, and Mike Pettibone were present. Ms. Snyder was not present.

**I. Call to Order**

\_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Shane moved for approval of the minutes. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Statement of the Chair**

Dr. Reed discussed the following:

- National Association of State Boards of Education conference in Alexandria, Virginia.
- Project Lead The Way national advisory board meeting, Bolton Landing, New York.

- Milken Award presented to Nicole Law, Principal, Garden City Elementary, Indianapolis.
- Federal Policy Seminar, Washington, D.C.
- Little Red School House meetings, Ball State University.
- Hanover College homecoming celebration.
- IPS Infusion Conference.
- School visits in several counties: Decatur, Dearborn, Switzerland, Posey, Washington, Clark, Scott, and Noble.
- Meeting with the Principals Advisory Committee.
- Information from the US DOE regarding new formula on graduation rates for all schools in the country.

Dr. Reed congratulated Dr. Tony Bennett, Superintendent of Public Instruction elect, who made a brief visit to the Board meeting. Dr. Bennett will hopefully attend the December Board meeting.

**IV. Member Comments and Reports from Board Member Representatives to Other Groups**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Blacketor gave Board members information from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Governmental Affairs Committee meeting, held on October 16, and NASBE's Issue Brief on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Blacketor said the Governmental Affairs Committee meeting focused on education priorities for the next administration and new accountability regulations from the US DOE. Mrs. Blacketor also said the purpose of the Interstate Compact is to address inequities facing schoolchildren of military parents when they are required to relocate across state lines. The compact also addresses issues regarding the eligibility, enrollment, placement and graduation requirements of military children. Currently 11 states are involved in the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children. Other states are expected to take action when their states reconvene their legislative sessions in 2009.

Mr. Pettibone discussed the education business summit meeting he attended in Fort Wayne, sponsored by Work One. Mr. Pettibone said the three keynote speakers were Tom Houlihan, Bill Daggett, and Dr. Eric Compton. The summit was well represented by 12 counties, which included 18 school corporations.

**V. Committee Reports**

A. Jeffery P. Zaring, State Board of Education Administrator reported on

Strategic Planning and said most Board members have responded to the highly qualified teacher survey and results showed favorable agreement on several topics related to priorities and achievable goals.

Mr. Elsener mentioned that he will be part of a delegation from Indiana that will attend the National Governor's Association conference in December. One focus of the conference will involve highly qualified teachers.

- B. Mr. Zaring reported on the Regulatory Review Committee that met on October 23. Mr. Zaring said the first issue discussed was accreditation as a process. The committee told DOE staff attendees to go ahead and implement changes to effectuate the improvements that the Board has directed. The committee also discussed the need to look further at Educational Service Centers cooperative purchasing. Rules on graduation requirements and student services were also discussed during the meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to have the Regulatory Review Committee continue the work on these rules.

## **VI. Discussion**

- A. Wes Bruce, Assistant Superintendent, discussed accountability and assessment. Mr. Bruce described changes made in Title I regulations and said Indiana is in good shape in terms of complying with the regulation changes, although we will have to resubmit our graduation rates and the State Board will have to set targets and goals for graduation rates. This can all be a part of the submission of information related to realignment of the assessment system. Other recent changes are clarification of SES and guidance on expenditures for Title III.

Mr. Bruce said he will attend a National Technical Advisory Council meeting on November 20. Part of that discussion will focus on end of course assessments as a part of AYP and accountability and trying to give guidance to the Department on how those should work, in particular, in those states where there are multiple end of course tests and students have options.

Mr. Bruce said ISTEP+ test results are on schedule to be delivered to schools on November 26, with results being released to the general public seven to 10 days later.

Mr. Bruce discussed the online pilot test that was conducted on October

15-16. Universally the level of keyboarding skills for those students that participated in the online testing was extremely low. Mr. Bruce said this has caused major concerns for the online applied skills test that was scheduled for this spring. The Department is working on this problem.

Mr. Bruce reported that the multiple choice part of the test will be done online as scheduled, and Friday, November 7, is the deadline for schools to notify the DOE that they wish to participate.

- B. Joel Hand, Director of Legislative and Governmental Relations, gave an update on legislative interim study committee meetings. Mr. Hand said the adult education interim study committee met for the last time, and the committee has approved recommendations and two preliminary drafts of education-related legislation. The education matters study committee will address the following issues in its recommendations:

- Steroid testing.
- Disproportionality in education.
- College and workforce readiness.
- Virtual education.
- School transportation costs.

In the matter of learners permits and graduated drivers licensing, the study committee has approved two preliminary drafts that can be found on the General Assembly web site.

Mr. Zaring discussed a statement from the Board regarding legislative priorities to include support for some data improvement. A statement will be developed and sent to the Board for review.

- C. Linda Miller, Assistant Superintendent, introduced Dr. Rachel Lovell, Carrie Mathers, and Chloe Gibbs, REL Midwest at Learning Point Associates, who discussed Indiana's full-day kindergarten program. Ms. Miller said two years ago the General Assembly substantially increased money for full-day kindergarten, from \$8.5 million for the school year 2006-2007 to \$33.8 million for 2007-2008 school year. Along with this increase in dollars, the General Assembly asked the State Board and Department of Education to provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of full-day kindergarten.

The study looked at the 2006-2007 to 2007-2008 school years to provide a full-day kindergarten enrollment snapshot before and after the increased funds. Indiana has experienced increases in the number of schools offering full day kindergarten and increases in full-day kindergarten

enrollment rates. The report also looks at how long school corporations can sustain the increase number of full-day kindergarten programs and higher enrollment at current funding levels. Many schools questioned whether full-day kindergarten would be an option for their incoming 2008-2009 students.

- D. Mr. Zaring introduced Dr. Robert Koester, School of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University; and Dean Roy Weaver, Ball State Teachers College. Dr. Koester discussed school construction guidelines.

Legislation regarding school construction guidelines goes into effect January 1, requiring the State Board of Education to adopt as rules, nonbinding school construction guidelines. Minimum requirements and energy savings are things to be considered. Helping with this task is Ball State University Center for School Innovation (partnership that includes the college of architectures and planning, the teachers college, and another center within Ball State.)

Dr. Koester discussed procurement and delivery, design process, benchmarks for short term and long term performance assessment, and acknowledging the economic, social, and environmental impacts of a project. Dr. Koester said focus group input will be solicited from parents, educators, and state officials, and they are now in the process of soliciting consultation from a sample of industry specialists.

Dr. Koester said invitations will be sent out to architecture firms in Indiana, asking for submission of suggested images that can be used as graphics in the guidelines. The guidelines are to be populated with examples of current Indiana school practices and will acknowledge the architects, school engineers, and school corporations that have contributed those images.

Dr. Koester gave Board members a list of stakeholders and a draft summary outline and said the goal is to finish up by the end of the calendar year.

- E. Matt Fleck, Assistant Director, Office of Student Services, and Cheryl Orr, Commission for Higher Education, discussed dual credit opportunities.

Ms. Orr explained that dual credit is the term given to courses in which high school students have the opportunity to earn both high school and college credits. The goal is to ensure that students have the opportunity to fulfill the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma requirements by using the dual credit option and to help more students prepare for college.

Ms. Orr said completion of dual credits is often an indication of a high school student's motivation and academic interest in college. Many colleges look favorable upon dual credits when considering students for admission or advanced academic standing.

Mr. Fleck reported that the Concurrent Enrollment Partnership will submit a report to the legislature by December 1, with a fiscal analysis of the cost of dual credits to postsecondary and secondary institutions. The report will include information on adopting dual credit courses that could be offered free of charge or at a reduced rate to students. The Partnership is also looking at what can be done to insure high school teachers have the credentials needed to teach more dual credit courses.

- F. Mr. Zaring discussed textbook adoption. At the September and October Board meetings, the Board indicated dissatisfaction with the materials available to schools. Mr. Shane suggested that the Board members send another letter, conveying their dissatisfaction with the materials available to schools, and recommending to the districts that this process is continuing, and that there is no rush to adopt, and that it is a good idea to see what possibilities exist to secure quality instructional materials.

Board members also discussed that teachers are already using nonstandard resources as a standard of part of their work in the classroom.

- G. Phyllis Usher, Assistant Superintendent, and Judy Jenkins, High School Redesign Coordinator, discussed support to probationary schools. Ms. Jenkins discussed the process created and supported by the Southern Regional Education Board's (SREB) High Schools That Work and Making Middle Grades Work models. Ms. Jenkins also discussed rubrics to be used by schools and expert teams in gathering the preliminary information needed to identify strengths and weaknesses of school programs.

Board members had questions about who will be on the team, what rubrics will be used for the elementary schools on the list, and financial compensation.

Ms. Jenkins said a rubric for elementary schools will be worked on and brought to the Board for review at the December meeting.

## **VII. Public Comments**

## **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- \_\_\_\_\_A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of an amendment to Interlocal

Agreement for Blue River Special Education Cooperative. [Agenda item VIII, A]

- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Freeway School petitions from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. [Agenda item X, D]
- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a Charter School loan application from the Common School Fund. [Agenda item X, E]
- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Professional Development Grants for the 2008-2009 school year. [Agenda item X, G]

Mr. Huston moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IX. Action**

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a lease rental agreement from the Cannelton City Schools, an unreorganized school corporation.

Marion Chapman, Superintendent, Cannelton City Schools, spoke on behalf of Cannelton City Schools.

Mr. Shane made a motion to deny the lease rental agreement for Cannelton City Schools. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight ayes and two noes (Dr. Eiler and Mr. Pettibone).

- B. Becky Kennedy, Physical Education Consultant, presented a request for approval of Academic Standards for Physical Education.

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of readoption of rules scheduled to expire January 1, 2009, as recommended by the Regulatory Reform Committee.

Mr. Gabet moved for approval. Dr. Eiler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of an Emergency Common School Fund loan for Clinton Prairie School Corporation.

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval. Dr. Eiler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. Board Operations**

Mrs. Blacketer moved for adjournment. Mr. Elsener seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.



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